

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 02185 142354Z

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1. CORRIERE DELLA SERA, FOR MANY YEARS CONSIDERED ITALY'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS DAILY, HAS SHOWN A DECIDED TREND IN RECENT MONTHS TOWARD UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORTING US POSITION ON MANY ISSUES INVOLVING WESTERN EUROPE, MOST NOTABLY IN ITS TREATMENT OF THE JUST-CONCLUDED WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE. THE NEW TONE CONTRASTS SHARPLY WITH THE PAPER'S ATTITUDE DURING THE PREVIOUS PERIOD DATING FROM THE ASSUMPTION OF THE EDITORSHIP BY PIERO OTTONE IN MARCH, 1972, WHEREIN CORRIERE HAD PROGRESSIVELY SHIFTED ITS TONE FROM MIDDLE-OF-THE ROAD TO LEFT OF CENTER.

2. TODAY'S COMMENT ON THE CONFERENCE BY FOREIGN NEWS ANALYST DINO FRESCOBALDI IS TYPICAL OF CORRIERE'S TREATMENT OF THIS ISSUE SINCE SECRETARY KISSINGER FIRST CALLED FOR THE CONFERENCE EARLY LAST MONTH. THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE, HE WROTE, IS SEEN AS A DRAMATIC MOMENT OF TRUTH FOR EUROPE. IT RAISES QUESTION AS TO WHAT EXTENT EUROPE "CAN GO IT ALONE". EUROPEAN ISOLATION FROM THE TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED WORLD, INCLUDING THE US., WOULD MAKE MORE DIFFICULT SETTLEMENT OF OUR ENERGY PROBLEMS. WHAT IS UNACCEPTABLE, HE ADDS, IS FRANCE'S CLAIM TO BE SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF EUROPEAN INTERESTS. FRANCE'S ARGUMENT THAT ALL THE OTHER EEC PARTNERS ARE DOMINATED BY THE SPIRIT OF SUBJECTION

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PAGE 02 ROME 02185 142354Z

TOWARDS AMERICA IS ABSURD.

3. EDITORIALS SUCH AS THESE, WRITTEN NOT ONLY BY FRESCOBALDI BUT BY CORRIERE'S TWO OTHER FOREIGN AFFAIRS ANALYSTS -- ENZO BETTIZA, A RECENT OFFICIAL VISITOR TO THE US, AND ALFREDO PIERONI -- ARE CARRIED SIDE BY SIDE WITH COMPREHENSIVE NEWS STORIES OF US EVENTS BY THEIR ABLE AND HIGHLY RESPECTED US CORRESPONDENTS UGO STILLE, AND FRANCO OCCHIUZZI. THEIR EFFORTS TO PRESENT FACTS OF THE STORY CONTRAST SHARPLY WITH THE OFTEN HIGHLY EDITORIALIZED REPORTS BY JOURNALISTS FOR OTHER ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS.

4. IT SHOULD, HOWEVER, BE NOTED THAT UNDER OTTONE'S POLICY OF TRYING TO GIVE READERS AS WIDE A SPECTRUM OF OPINIONS AS POSSIBLE, THERE HAVE BEEN NEWS FEATURES FROM TIME TO TIME BY SOME OF THE PAPERS NON-US BASED OVERSEAS CORRESPONDENTS AND SOME RADICALS REPORTERS BASED IN ITALY WHICH WE HAVE FELT WERE UNFAIRLY CRITICAL OF THE U.S. ONE PARTICULARLY BLATANT EXAMPLE WAS A SERIES OF ARTICLE ON ALLEGED US ROLE IN LATIN AMERICA, CARRIED IN THE PAPER LATE LAST YEAR.

5. PROBABLY A BIT EARLY TO JUDGE WHETHER PAPER'S SYMPATHETIC TREATMENT OF ENERGY CONFERENCE, SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST SUCCESSES, OTHER US INITIATIVES REPRESENTS LONG-TERM SHIFT IN CORRIERE'S EDITORIAL POLICY ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUT NOT TOO EARLY TO SAY WE ARE ENCOURAGED.

6. THE US MISSION HAS INCREASED ITS EFFORTS IN RECENT MONTHS VIS-A-VIS THE CORRIERE EDITORS. MILAN CONSUL GENERAL HAS ESTABLISHED EXCELLENT WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH OTTONE, USIS BRANCH PAO WITH OTHER EDITORS. RECENTLY, AMBASSADOR HAD SUBSTANTIVE TALK WITH OTTONE AND THREE FOREIGN AFFAIRS ANALYSTS NAMED ABOVE AT THE PAPER'S MILAN HEADQUARTERS.
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